

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 PRS-01 /065 W

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R 290739Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO DIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3098

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2027

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO MSG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA: ROK MILITARY

ATTITUDES (U)

1. (C) ON TWO OCCASIONS IN PAST MONTHS ROKA G2, MG YANG, BONG JIK, EXPRESSED TO FORMER AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE ATTACHE AND HIS SUCCESSOR VIEW THAT AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN PYONGYANG WOULD BE TO SOUTH KOREA'S ADVANTAGE. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS BEEN STRUCK BY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROKG OFFICIAL POSITION AND GEN YANG'S CLEARLY EXPRESSED VIEW WHICH IS AT COMPLETE VARIANCE TO IT.

2. (C) THE AUSTRALIANDEFENSE ATTACHES' DISCUSSION WITH YANG ON BOTH OCCASIONS WERE REPORTED TO CANBERRA, AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW YANG COULD ADOPT SUCH A DIFFERENT VIEW FROM THAT OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. (C) FROM EMBASSY DEFENSE ATTACHE'S DISCUSSION WITH ROK G2 LIAISON OFFICER, IT APPEARS THAT WITHIN ROK MILITARY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY THERE IS AN INFORMAL CONSENSUS TO EFFECT THAT AUSTRALIAN PRESENCE IN PYONGYANG COULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE FROM ROK POINT OF VIEW, PARTICULARLY IN INTELLIGENCE FIELD, SINCE ROK KNOWS SO LITTLE ABOUT THE NORTH.

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4. (C) ROK G2 OFFICER INDICATED THAT VIEW HELD IN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IS NOT WIDELY SHARED IN GOVERNMENT OR AMONG SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS AND IS NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY. HE NOTED GEN YANG'S EXPRESSED VIEWS, FAVORING ESTABLISHMENT OF AUSTRALIAN MISSION IN PYONGYANG, WERE IN FACT PERSONAL, AND WERE NOT INTENDED AS ANY GOVERNMENT SIGNAL TO AUSTRALIANS. HOWEVER, ROKA OFFICER SAID YANG DOES BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN PYONGYANG WOULD BE TO ROK'S LONG TERM BENEFIT.

HABIB

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